

REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 52-63, and 73 are now pending. Applicant has amended claims 1, 10, and 16.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his consideration during the telephone interview of June 2, 2005. During that interview, the Examiner and applicant's representative discussed that the viewer accounts in Gautier would not be combined because the purpose of the viewer accounts is to have separate preferences and access rights. If the viewer accounts were combined, the preferences and access rights would not be separate. The Examiner agreed that viewer accounts of Gautier could not be combined. The Examiner, however, mentioned that Hagan combines accounts. Applicant will address the Hagan below.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-14 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Although applicant disagrees, applicant has amended the claims to address the Examiner's concerns.

The Examiner has rejected claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gautier and claims 1-15, 52-63, and 73 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gautier in view of Hagan. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. As discussed above, the viewer accounts of Gautier could not be combined because the purpose of the separate viewer accounts (e.g., separate preferences) would be defeated.

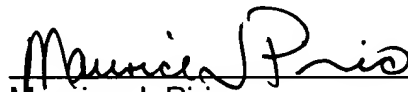
The Examiner has pointed to Hagan as showing the combining of medical accounts. Hagan, however, neither teaches nor suggest that such accounts are associated with nodes. For example, claim 1 recites "the first account being associated with a first node" and "the second account being associated with a second node," and claim 16 recites "an account identifier previously stored at the node." As such, Hagan does not describe that accounts are combined based in part on their association with nodes. For example, claim 16 recites "when the received

account identifier does not match an account identifier previously stored at the node, prompting the user by the computer system to indicate whether the account identified by the received account identifier should be the same account as an account identified by an account identifier previously stored at the node."

Based on the above amendment and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

Respectfully submitted,
Perkins Coie LLP

Date: June 21, 2005


Maurice J. Pirio
Registration No. 33,273

Correspondence Address:

Customer No. 25096
Perkins Coie LLP
P.O. Box 1247
Seattle, Washington 98111-1247
(206) 359-8000